

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71A-32 Building Date: ca. 1895
Building Name: Richard Brown House
Location: 14208 Old Stage Road, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Unoccupied/Deteriorated/Inaccessible

Description

The Richard Brown House is a two-story gable-roof frame house which stands in a rural area near the Popes Creek Line of the Conrail Railroad at Collington. It consists of a side-gabled main block, three-bays by two-bays, with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, giving it an L shape. The house faces south, and entrance is in the central bay of the three bay main south facade, through a modern door with plain board surround. The plain horizontal board siding is covered with white asbestos shingle. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash with plain board surrounds, and no shutters. The gable roof is covered with red asphalt shingle. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and returned at the gable ends. Extending to the north (rear) and flush with the west gable end of the main block is a two-story gable-roof one-bay-by-one-bay kitchen wing. Siding, roof, and fenestration are the same as the main block.

Significance

The Richard Brown House is an example of a modest but sturdy frame dwelling built by a family of blacks who had become landowners after the Civil War. It stands in a wooded rural area, west of the Popes Creek line of the railroad at Collington. It has been vacant for nearly a quarter century, and is in seriously deteriorating condition, but is probably restorable. In March of 1883 Richard Brown, a black farm laborer from the Collington area, purchased 63 acres of land which had belonged to the Mitchell family. Most of Brown's family had been part of the slave labor force at Charles Hill's "Collington Meadows" plantation three miles to the south, and had been emancipated in 1864. Richard Brown purchased the 63-acre farm in 1883, moved his family into a small log building on the property and farmed the land. Circa 1895, he built the subject house, a modest I-house with kitchen ell, resting on a hand-built foundation of local sandstone. Richard Brown died in 1910, leaving a widow Maria Jane, and sons George, Richard and Robert. The land was divided amicably between the three brothers, with each taking title to 19 1/2 acres, and George receiving the parcel on which his father's house stood. The house is typical of the modest balloon frame dwellings which were constructed at the end of the nineteenth century. It is significant as a dwelling typical of those which could be constructed by an emerging middle class of black landowners. It has remained in the family of the builder to the third generation.

Acreage: 8 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Richard Brown House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14208 Old Stage Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Bowie ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dorothy M. Brown

street & number 6315 Carrington Court telephone no.:

city, town Capitol Heights state and zip code Md. 20743

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. Co. Courthouse liber #5693

street & number Main Street folio 390

city, town Capitol Heights state Md. 20743

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#71A-32

Condition	X	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Richard Brown House is a two-story gable-roof frame house which stands in a rural area near the Popes Creek Line of the Conrail Railroad at Collington. It consists of a side-gabled main block, three-bays by two-bays, with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, giving it an L shape. It is set back circa one-half mile north of Old Stage Road, has been vacant for circa 25 years, and is in seriously deteriorating condition.

The house faces south, and entrance is in the central bay of the three bay main south facade, through a modern door with plain board surround. The steps which must have originally led to this door are now gone, and there are no visible indications of a porch. The plain horizontal board siding is covered with white asbestos shingle. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash with plain board surrounds, and no shutters. The gable roof is covered with red asphalt shingle. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and returned at the gable ends. There are two interior corbelled brick chimneys, at the ridge of the main block, are at each of the gable ends. The house rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing sandstone; there is no basement.

Interior plan of the main block consists of a central stair flanked by a parlor on each side. The stair is boxed and leads straight up from the central south entrance. Surrounds of doors and windows are of plain board, and there are no mantels.

Extending to the north (rear) and flush with the west gable end of the main block is a two-story gable-roof one-bay-by-one-bay kitchen wing. Siding, roof, and fenestration are the same as the main block. Filling part of the interior (northeast) corner formed by the main block and kitchen ell is a one-story shed-roof porch; it shelters entrances into both the main block and the kitchen wing.

Two old outbuildings stand on the grounds west of the house: a small square gable-roof shed, and a long stable/shed with gable-roof and shed extension. Near them is a new (circa 1960) dwelling.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#71A-32

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates ca. 1895

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Richard Brown House is an example of a modest but sturdy frame dwelling built by a family of blacks who had become landowners after the Civil War. It stands in a wooded rural area, west of the Popes Creek line of the railroad at Collington. It has been vacant for nearly a quarter century, and is in seriously deteriorating condition, but is probably restorable.

In 1879, R.B.B. Chew was appointed trustee to sell some of the land of George and John Mitchell at Collington, and in March of 1883 he sold 63 acres of land to Richard Brown, a black farm laborer from the Collington area.¹ Most of Brown's family had been part of the slave labor force at Charles Hill's "Collington Meadows" plantation (three miles to the south), and had been emancipated in 1864.² Richard Brown purchased the 63-acre farm in 1883, moved his family into a small log building on the property and farmed the land. Circa 1895, he built the subject house, a modest I-house with kitchen ell, resting on a hand-built foundation of local sandstone.³

Richard Brown died in 1910, leaving a widow Maria Jane, and sons George, Richard and Robert (a fourth son, William, had left Maryland in 1892). The land was surveyed and divided amicably between the three brothers, with each taking title to 19 1/2 acres, and George receiving the parcel on which his father's house stood.⁴ When George Brown died in 1945, he left his property to four heirs, his dwelling going to his godson Francis A. Brown.⁵

The house is typical of the modest balloon frame dwellings which were constructed at the end of the nineteenth century. It is significant as a dwelling typical of those which could be constructed by an emerging middle class of black landowners, and is very similar to those built in Rossville in 1888 and 1889.⁶ It has remained in the family of the builder to the third generation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#71A-32

Cf. notes, item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8.0 acres
Quadrangle name Lanham, Section C

Tax Map 45, parcel 19

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate August 1986street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG-71A-32

Section 8 Page 2

Notes:

- 1 Prince George's County Deed JWB #8:698.
- 2 Prince George's County Slave Statistics, 1867-68; Md. Hall of Records.
- 3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1888-1915.
- 4 Prince George's County Estate file #3563; Deed of Partition #61:245.
- 5 Prince George's County Will WEC #2:202; estate file #8530.
- 6 cf. MHT forms #62-18 and #62-19.

CHAS. R. SCHNEIDER
1129 / 338
71.99 A
P. 25

R-R

SPRIGGS
33
A.

MARY C. TURNER
5693/381
6.18 A.
P. 7

DOROTHY
M. BROWN
5693/390
8.00 A.
P. 19

RICHARD S.
BROWN
2232 / 336
14.50 A.
P. 21

F. & D. SCHNEIDER
5922/549
19.50 A.
P. 20

2.35 A.
P. 47

2.35 A.
P. 38

LOT 1
8547

6040/
039
2.00 A.
P. 14

5281/622
2.31 A.
P. 30

2.00 A.
P. 93

4232/593
2.84 A.
P. 23

4.81/476
5.01 A.
P. 122

LOUIS COHEN ETAL
5034/408
92.19 A.
P. 22

LOUIS COHEN ETAL
5034/408
6.61 A.
P. 102

R-R

LOUIS COHEN ETAL
5034/408
25.94 A.
P. 79

AL C.
GILKESSON
2709-190
3.26 A.
P. 63

WM.
WELLS
3086-76
4.78 A.
P. 60

THE ART
ORGANIZA
TION
5350
9.
P.

P. 54-29

SECT-55

4843

181

180

PARCEL
"A"

CONRAIL

SECT-56

5338

R-80

B

VIC



PG#71A-32

Richard Brown House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
May 1986
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#71A-32

Richard Brown House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
May 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#71A-32

Richard Brown House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
May 1986
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.